Spice & Wolf

Vol. 5

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

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Outline

Holo the Wisewolf and Lawrence the traveling merchant have fallen into the Latparron Company's clever trap and now owe a huge debt to the Remelio Company. Will the two of them be able to triumph in the face of a merchant's worst nightmare?

Norah

A talented young shepherdess employed by the Church in Ruvinheigen.

Lawrence

A traveling merchant. Tricked by the Latparron Company into holding suddenly worthless armor.

Holo

A beautiful girl with the ears and tail of a wolf. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.

SPICE & WOLF

RUVINHEIGEN SERVED AS A SUPPLY DEPOT FOR KNIGHTS, MERCENARIES, AND MISSIONARIES HEADING NORTH TO SUPPRESS THE PAGANS.

THUS ARMOR AND BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE WERE RELIABLE SOURCES OF PROFIT.

EVERY WINTER THERE WAS A MAJOR CAMPAIGN.

THE MARCH WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE BIRTHDAY OF SAINT RUVIN-HEIGEN...

...AND TO EQUIP THE MERCENARIES AND KNIGHT BRIGADES THAT AMASSED FROM THE SURROUNDING NATIONS. GOODS LIKE ARMOR, SCRIPTURES, RATIONS, COLD-WEATHER CLOTHES, HORSES, AND MEDICINE ALL FLEW OFF THE SHELVES.

BUT THIS YEAR, THE MARCH HAD BEEN SUDDENLY CANCELED.

PAGAN-CONTROLLED LANDS

LAMTRA

RUVINHEIGEN

...AND THEIR DISPOSITION TOWARD RUVINHEIGEN HAD SUDDENLY SOURED.

THERE WAS POLITICAL UNREST IN THE NATION THAT STRETCHED OUT BETWEEN THE PAGAN TERRITORIES AND THE LAND RUVINHEIGEN CONTROLLED...

THE ARCHBISHOP WHO CONTROLLED THE GRAND DIOCESE WAS IN ATTENDANCE, AS WAS A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY. THEY COULD NOT LET THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPEN.

ANY OTHER YEAR WHEN TRAVERSING NATIONS CONTAINING PAGAN TOWNS LIKE LAMTRA...

...THE ARMY WOULD HAVE MARCHED THROUGH WHILE THE PAGANS WATCHED SILENTLY, BUT THIS YEAR THE DANGER OF ATTACK WAS SUDDENLY VERY REAL.

THUS THE CAMPAIGN WAS CANCELED.

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.

FOR THE EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED LUMIONE-WORTH OF ARMOR YOU BOUGHT FROM THE LATPARRON COMPANY...

...YOU WILL NEED TO REMIT TO US ALL OF FORTY-SEVEN AND THREE-QUARTERS LUMIONE.

HOWEVER, THIS WAS A FIXED-TERM LOAN.

YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT THIS AMOUNTS TO, ARE YOU NOT?

.....

OF COURSE. I AM A MERCHANT, AFTER ALL.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO SETTLE YOUR DEBT IMMEDIATELY.

OTHER-WISE...

...WE'LL HAVE TO DEMAND THAT THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD ASSUME THE DEBT IN YOUR PLACE.

PIKU (TWITCH)

GATA CCLATTERO

PLEASE PAY BACK THE FORTY-SEVEN AND THREE-QUARTERS LUMIONE IN FULL BY THEN.

STILL, THE TERM OF THE LOAN WAS THROUGH THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, SO WE'LL WAIT FOR TWO DAYS.

YES, WE'LL BE WAITING.

WE'LL SETTLE THE DEBT IN TWO DAYS. WILL THAT DO?

I'LL SELL IT HIGH, SOMEWHERE. YOU'LL SEE.

...THAT OUR COMPANY'S STALLS ARE NEAR THE CITY GATES.

I SHOULD SAY...

GYUU (CLENCH)

I EXPECT I'LL BE BUSY WITH NEGOTIATIONS, SO I DOUBT I WILL.

IF YOU PLAN TO USE THEM, DO LET US KNOW.

GARA

GARA (CLATTER)

チラ
CHIRA (GLANCE)

MMPH. THEN I SUPPOSE I DIDN'T HEAR WRONG.

GOTO ゴト

ゴト
GOTO (CLOP)

SO AS IT HAPPENS, THE LOAD BEHIND US IS WORTHLESS.

ゴシ
GOSHI (RUB)

.....

ゴシ
GOSHI

GOTO ゴト

INCIDENTALLY, THIS COULD MEAN BANKRUPTCY FOR ME.

ガタ
GATA (CLIP)

GOTO

.....

GOTO (RUMBLE)

WILL YOU RUN?

GATA (CLATTER)

IF I RUN ONCE, I'LL BE ON THE RUN FOREVER.

THE INFORMATION NETWORKS OF THE TRADE GUILDS AND COMPANIES ARE LIKE THE VERY EYES OF GOD. NO MATTER WHERE I WENT, IF I TRIED TO DO BUSINESS I'D BE FOUND OUT IMMEDIATELY.

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO BE A MERCHANT AGAIN.

BUT THE GOING RATE FOR AN INJURED ANIMAL TO FREE ITSELF IS GNAWING THROUGH ITS OWN LIMB. YOU WON'T CONTENT YOURSELF WITH THAT?

NEVER!

IF I PAY BACK MY DEBT, THAT'LL BE ENOUGH. I STILL HAVE MY GOODS.

I CAN SETTLE MY DEBTS HERE AND SELL THEM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, WHERE THEY'LL FETCH A DECENT PRICE.

...AND...

...IF IT COMES TO IT, I MAY NEED SAVING.

EVEN IF I MUST USE THE POWER WITHIN THIS WHEAT.

IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY, I SWEAR ON MY HONOR TO FREE YOU.

COUNT ON IT.

I'LL KEEP THAT PROMISE ...

YOU PROMISED TO ACCOMPANY ME BACK TO THE NORTH-LANDS.

I CAN'T HAVE YOU GETTING TRIPPED UP HERE.

GOTO

GOTO (CLOP)

SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

WE'LL GO TO THE GUILD HOUSE FIRST. THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO.

SURELY HOPE IT GOES THAT WELL...

MM. IF THEY'RE TRULY YOUR COMRADES THEY'LL COME TO YOUR AID.

!?

(GYU STOMP)

!

RIGHT, I'M HEADING OUT FOR A MOMENT, SO YOU JUST WAIT HERE—

N-NO... BUT...

...WHILE HER COMPANION FACES A CRISIS ALONE?

DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF UNGRATEFUL WOLF THAT STAYS IN THE INN GROOMING HERSELF...

YOU DON'T... BUT THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.

GIRI (CRUSH)

GIRI

DO I!?

YOU'RE THE SMART ONE, ANYWAY.

FINE, COME ALONG.

PIKU (FWISH)

!

WHAT IS THE ISSUE, THEN?

THE GUILD HOUSE IS LIKE HOME FOR MERCHANTS LIKE ME. YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT BRINGING A GIRL HOME MEANS, RIGHT?

WHOOPS!

HOW-EVER...

MM. YOU CAN RELY ON ME.

...I'LL BE EXPLAINING OUR RELATIONSHIP AS A PURELY MERCANTILE ONE. DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY.

HMPH.

.....

THERE'LL BE NOBODY TO LISTEN TO OUR CONVERSATION HERE, SO YOU CAN RELAX ON THAT COUNT.

THIS IS WHERE I WORK.

WELL, THEN, WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?

...WHO AND WHAT THAT BEAUTY OF YOURS IS.

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO KNOW...

OH-HOH!

BUSI-NESS, EH?

SHE'S A BUSINESS PARTNER. WE'RE TRAVELING TOGETHER.

OF COURSE.

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE MILONE COMPANY IN PAZZIO?

.....

AHEM!

NIKO (GRIN)

SHE'S THE ONE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN.

.....

THEY OFFERED ME TWO HUNDRED TRENNI FOR THE FURS I WAS SELLING...

...BUT IN THE END THEY BOUGHT THEM FOR A FULL TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY TRENNI.

HEH HEH!

I SAID IT THIS MORNING WHEN I WAS HERE.

YOU CAN'T INVEST WITHOUT CAPITAL.

fuuu (SIGH)

HUH?

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE DETAILS.

YOUR LIKE DOES SHOW UP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, AFTER ALL.

...EVERY-THING GOING WELL IN BUSINESS AND IN LIFE.

ONE DAY THEY JUST SHOW UP AT THE GUILD, STUNNING BEAUTY IN TOW...

THE SCRIPTURES SAY NOT TO OPEN STRANGE BOXES, AFTER ALL.

'TIS A PRUDENT DECISION.

AND THEY NEVER WANT TO GIVE DETAILS ABOUT THE WOMAN. SO I DON'T ASK ANYMORE.

BUT IF YOU'RE IN BUSINESS TOGETHER, WELL, THAT'S DIFFERENT. YOU'LL HANG TOGETHER OR HANG SEPARATELY— YOUR PARTNER'S FALL IS YOUR OWN MIS-FORTUNE.

THE BONDS OF GOLD RUN THICKER THAN BLOOD!

WELL, THEN, LET'S SPEAK FRANKLY, SHALL WE?

IF YOU TWO WERE AN ORDINARY COUPLE...

...I'D HAVE TRIED TO CONVINCE YOU TO HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE CHURCH AND MAKE IT OFFICIAL.

GISHI (CREAK)

JUST A MOMENT AGO, YOU SEE, A MESSENGER FROM THE REMELIO COMPANY WAS HERE.

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYBODY COMING TO BLOWS IN THE FRONT, SO IT SEEMS YOU WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO MISS HIM.

.....
.....

GYU SQUEEZE

THIS IS WHAT HE SAID. IF ANY OF IT IS WRONG, CORRECT ME.

SU (SHP)

IS THAT CORRECT?

WE'RE LIABLE FOR ROUGHLY HALF. THE REMELIO COMPANY HOLDS THE DEBT.

KRAFT LAWRENCE, OF THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD, BOUGHT ONE HUNDRED LUMIONE-WORTH OF ARMOR FROM THE LATPARRON COMPANY IN POROSON.

...YES.

NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE THINKS, YOU GOT GREEDY AND MADE A MISTAKE.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY THE LATPARRON COMPANY. I WON'T ASK THE DETAILS.

I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT KIND OF ARMOR IT WAS, BUT THE ARMOR IS GOING FOR ABOUT ONE-TENTH WHAT IT PREVIOUSLY WAS.

IS THAT RIGHT?

...IT IS, EXACTLY...

I CAN'T SEE ANY ROOM FOR EXCUSES.

...THAT THE GUILD WOULD HAVE, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, SHOULDERED.

YOU MUST PAY BACK ON YOUR OWN THE DEBT...

IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, THIS WILL BE A SIMPLE CONVER-SATION.

...OR THAT BEAUTY.

BUT NOT THIS TIME.

...WE IN THE TRADE GUILD PUT OUR CREDIT ON THE LINE TO SAVE YOU.

WHEN YOU MEET WITH FRAUD OR EXTORTION, WHEN YOU BECOME SICK OR INJURED, AND SUFFER LOSSES...

SU (SWP)

THE ONLY ONES TO COME TO YOUR AID NOW WILL BE THE GODS...

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO SHOW YOU ANY COMPASSION.

AND THE REASON WHY I MUST BE SO STRICT IS JUST OUTSIDE IN THE LOBBY.

IT IS GUILD LAW. IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THIS TRADE HOUSE GOES EASY ON ITS MEMBERS, IT WOULD BE A TARGET FOR RIFFRAFF FROM ALL AROUND.

I WAS TOO NAIVE...

OF COURSE. I MYSELF WOULD BE ANGRY IF I HEARD SOME OTHER MEMBER HAD BEEN SAVED FROM HIS OWN FAILURE.

I KNOW.

ALSO, YOU SURELY KNOW THIS, BUT GUILD MEMBERS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM LENDING MONEY TO EACH OTHER.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR FAILURE WILL BECOME PUBLIC THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, AND I'LL HAVE TO DETAIN YOU.

THEY WON'T HESITATE IN DEMANDING REPAYMENT.

THEIR OWN INVEST-MENTS IN ARMOR HAVE FAILED, SO THEY'RE FEELING THE HEAT AS WELL.

I HEARD YOUR OBLIGA-TION COMES DUE IN TWO DAYS.

...AND PAY THE REMELIO COMPANY BACK, THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR ME.

IF I DO NOT COLLECT FORTY-SEVEN LUMIONE IN TWO DAYS...

WHAT HAVE YOU CONCLUDED FROM THIS?

THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE.

YOU WILL HAVE A FUTURE.

BUT IT WILL BE BLACK, BITTER, AND HEAVY—

A DIRE FUTURE.

I KNOW.

AND IT IS MY DUTY TO ENFORCE THAT SIMPLE PRINCIPLE.

DON'T FORGET THIS— A SIN MUST BE PUNISHED.

BUT IT IS NOT AS THOUGH I WISH DEATH ON YOU.

STANDARD BUSINESS ASSISTANCE IS NO PROBLEM.

BUT IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO, I WILL.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BESIDES WISH YOU LUCK OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

...BUT YOU CAN GO FREE.

I OUGHT TO TIE YOU UP FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS...

ALSO, I *TRUST* YOU.

I'LL TRY TO FIND THE MONEY IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS SOMEHOW.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDER-ATION.

YOU DO THAT.

SOME YOU CAN ONLY SEE WHEN YOU ARE IN TRUE DANGER.

THERE ARE ALWAYS POSSIBILITIES IN BUSINESS.

IS HE TELLING ME NOT TO ASK HOW...?

HAVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ASK OR SAY?

I WANT YOU TO THINK OF WHAT YOU'LL SAY WHEN I REPAY THE MONEY.

あ AH!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

IF YOU CAN STILL MAKE THAT SORT OF JOKE, YOU'LL BE FINE!

AND YOU, MY DEAR, HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY?

THEY'RE A SUSPICIOUS LOT OUT THERE, YOU KNOW.

RIGHT, THAT SHOULD WRAP THINGS UP.

WE SHOULDN'T TALK TOO LONG.

GISHI CREAK

IF RUMORS GET AROUND, IT'LL BE HARDER FOR YOU TO ACT.

GOOD LUCK, KRAFT.

WELL, WE'VE GOT TWO DAYS OF FREEDOM.

WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO WITH IT.

WHEN...

GACHA GKACHAK

.....
.....

KYU
(SQUEEZE)

SO. WHAT WILL YOU DO?

DEBT FOR DEBT!

FIRST, BEFORE WE DO ANY MORE THINKING, WE NEED TO TEST SOMETHING.

AND THAT IS?

Spice & Wolf

NONE CAN FEEL AT EASE WHEN LENDING LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY UNLESS THEY ARE VERY WEALTHY OR GENEROUS INDEED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE DOES NOT NAG FOR REPAYMENT OF A TRIVIAL LOAN...

...UNLESS ONE IS ESPECIALLY PETTY OR ESPECIALLY STRAPPED FOR CASH.

ONE WAY TO MANAGE A DEBT OF FORTY-SEVEN LUMIONE WOULD BE TO BORROW SMALL AMOUNTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO PAY IT OFF...

...THEN GRADUALLY PAY OFF EACH LENDER IN TURN.

SPICE & WOLF

...AND I'VE GOT TO LAY IN STOCK FOR SPRING.

IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR, PRICES OF WHEAT AND MEAT ARE UP...

FIVE LUMIONE? SORRY, FRIEND. TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR ME AT THE MOMENT.

PATAN! (SHUT)

SORRY, I JUST...

NOT AT ALL. SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.

GOTO (RUMBLE)

GOTO

GOTO

PA (FWISH)

WELL, HOW DID IT GO?

I'VE GOT COUNTLESS BUSINESS CONTACTS IN RUVINHEIGEN, AFTER ALL.

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

MM...

IF I DON'T THINK OF A WAY TO TURN A PROFIT, I'LL JUST SLIDE SLOWLY INTO RUIN.

THE REAL PROBLEM WILL BE PAYING OFF THE LOANS QUICKLY AFTER I'VE CLEARED THE LARGER DEBT.

...AND TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT?

...WOULD IT NOT BE FASTEST TO TRY TO GRASP WHERE THE MAJOR FLOW OF MONEY IS...

THERE IS MUCH I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND OF THIS CITY, BUT...

YOU CAN TELL IT COST A LOT JUST LOOKING AT IT.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT CATHEDRAL PERHAPS?

WELL...UP TILL NOW, IT WAS IN ARMS AND ARMOR...

HA HA...

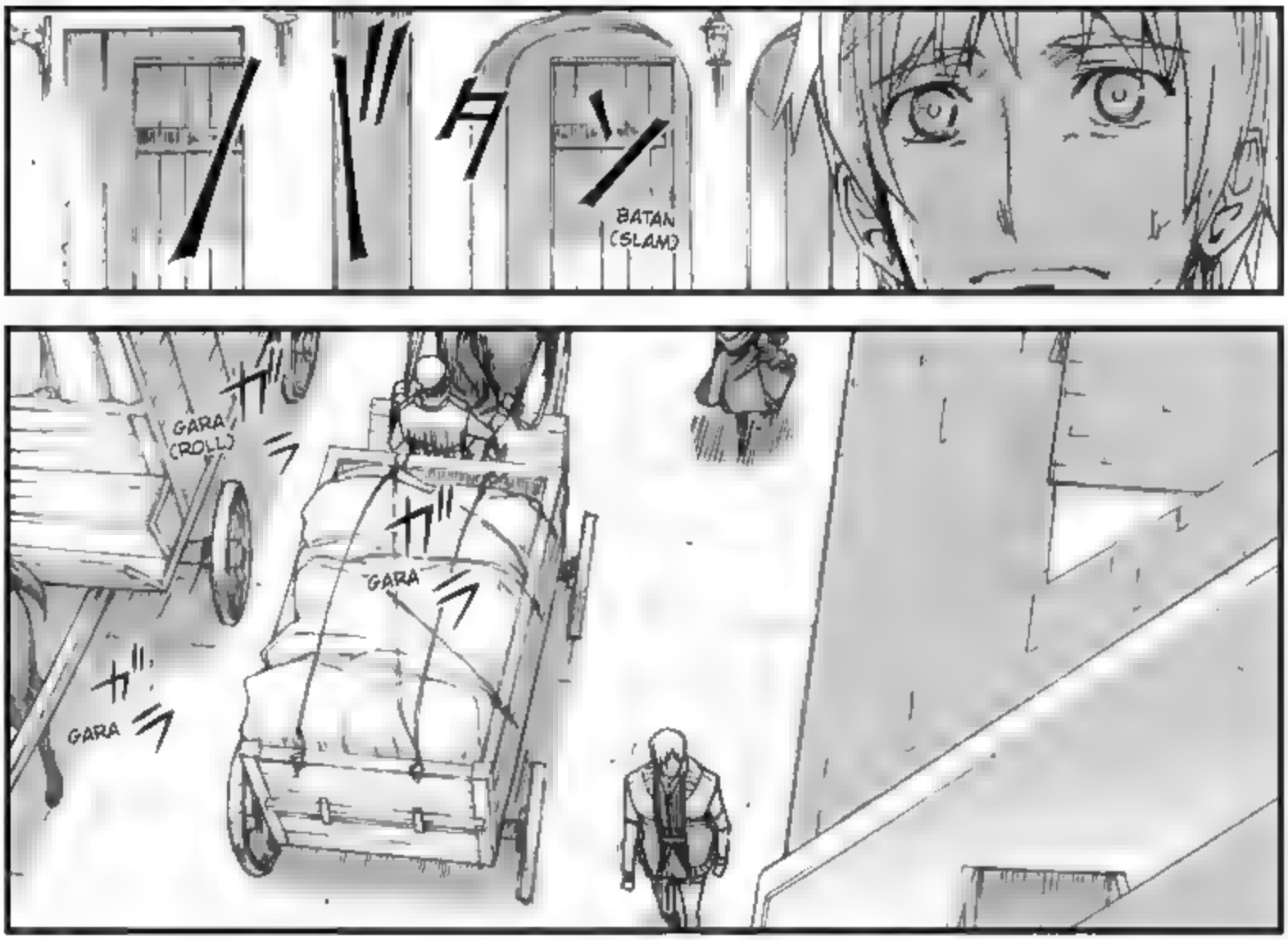
...BUT SHORT OF THE GREAT CAMPAIGNS, WHERE WOULD THE FLOW OF CAPITAL BE THE GREATEST ...?

GYU (SCRUFF)

NO, THE CHURCH KEEPS A CLOSE EYE ON CATHEDRAL CONSTRUC-TION FUNDS.

THERE'S NO PROFIT TO BE HAD THERE FOR AN OUTSIDER LIKE ME.

BUT ANY-WAY, WE NEED TO FOCUS ON RAISING MONEY.


BATAN
(SLAM)
GARA
(ROLL)
GARA
GARA

!

HA

GRUNCH

THIS IS BAD. I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN.

SORRY.

...YEAH, MAYBE.

'TIS WELL. SURELY THE NEXT ONE WILL GO FAVORABLY.

HFFF!

はあ

HFFF!

はあ

SOME-
THING'S
STRANGE.

...I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE THAT EVEN MY OWN TRADE GUILD WON'T LOAN ME MONEY.

A RUMOR COULDN'T HAVE TRAVELED THIS FAST... NO...

I THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR THIS, BUT IT'S AFFECTING ME MORE THAN I EXPECTED.

ZAAAA (WSSSHHH)

KOKU (GLUG)

コク

KOKU

コク

THERE ARE A LOT OF PLACES I'VE YET TO VISIT.

YOU SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE INN.

IF I'M A BURDEN, THEN I'LL RETURN.

BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN MY HELP MIGHT BE USEFUL.

FINE, FINE.

KARAN

KARAN

KARAN (CLANG)

コン
KON
(KNOCK)

コン
KON

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, MA'AM.

!

WHO IS THERE?

HUH?

ドタ
DOTA
(STOMP)

ドタ
DOTA

DEAR!

IS YOUR HUSBAND —?

クル
KURU
(TWIP)

IT HAS. I'M VERY SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU AFTER THE MARKET HAS CLOSED...

...BUT I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, MR. LAWRENCE.

KO (TOKK)

KO

I HAPPENED TO HEAR THAT YOU'VE BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH YOUR REQUEST.

.....
.....

GARA

GARA

GARA (ROLL)

YES... I WAS NAIVE AND MADE A MISTAKE.

IS THIS BECAUSE OF THE DROP IN ARMOR PRICES, I WONDER?

AND IT'S A SIZABLE AMOUNT YOU'RE ASKING TOO.

YES... THOUGH IT EMBARRASSES ME TO SAY SO...

TOWN MERCHANTS ARE WELL-CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, THAT'S FOR SURE.

A NAIVE MISTAKE? I SUPPOSE IT WAS AT THAT.

IT'S UNFAIR TO REBUKE YOU FOR BEING UNABLE TO DO SO.

YET ONLY THE GODS CAN PREDICT A SUDDEN FALL IN PRICE.

IF YOU WERE IN TROUBLE, MR. LAWRENCE, PERHAPS I WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP YOU...

...OR SO I *THOUGHT AT FIRST.*

YOU'VE HELPED ME TURN A PROFIT MANY A TIME.

FUU SIGH

ER...

SO...

...AND I BELIEVE I MUST BE RIGHTEOUS IN MY DEALINGS WITH OTHERS.

BUT WHILE I'M A MERCHANT, I ALSO LIVE BY THE TEACHINGS OF GOD...

YOU'VE GOT A WOMAN IN TOW EVEN AS YOU MAKE THE ROUNDS, DEPENDING ON THE COMPASSION OF OTHERS TO LEND YOU MONEY?

IS THERE NO LIMIT TO YOUR IMPUDENCE?

.....
.....

BATAN (SLAM)

HOW FAR THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD HAS FALLEN.

FLIRA (SWAY)

YORO (WOBBLE)

BIHIHIINN (NEIIIGHD)

GET OUT OF THE ROAD!

HFFF!

はあ

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

HEY THERE!

はあ

HFFF!

GARA (RUMBLE)

RA

!?

RA

RA

RA

!?

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T —!

LET'S HIE TO THE INN—

YOUR FACE IS QUITE PALE.

.....!

BASHI (SMACK)

UGH ...

I'M...

...SORRY...

AGH —!

SHIT!

GO (WHOK)

...I'M GOING BACK TO THE INN.

SPICE&WOLF

KARAN (JINGLE)

WELL, YOU'RE BACK EARLY.

SHI

GISHI (CREAK)

?

SPICE & WOLF

BUT...

AND THOSE IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL THE BUSINESS CONNECTIONS I'D SO PAINSTAKINGLY BUILT IN THIS CITY.

CHARI (CLINK)

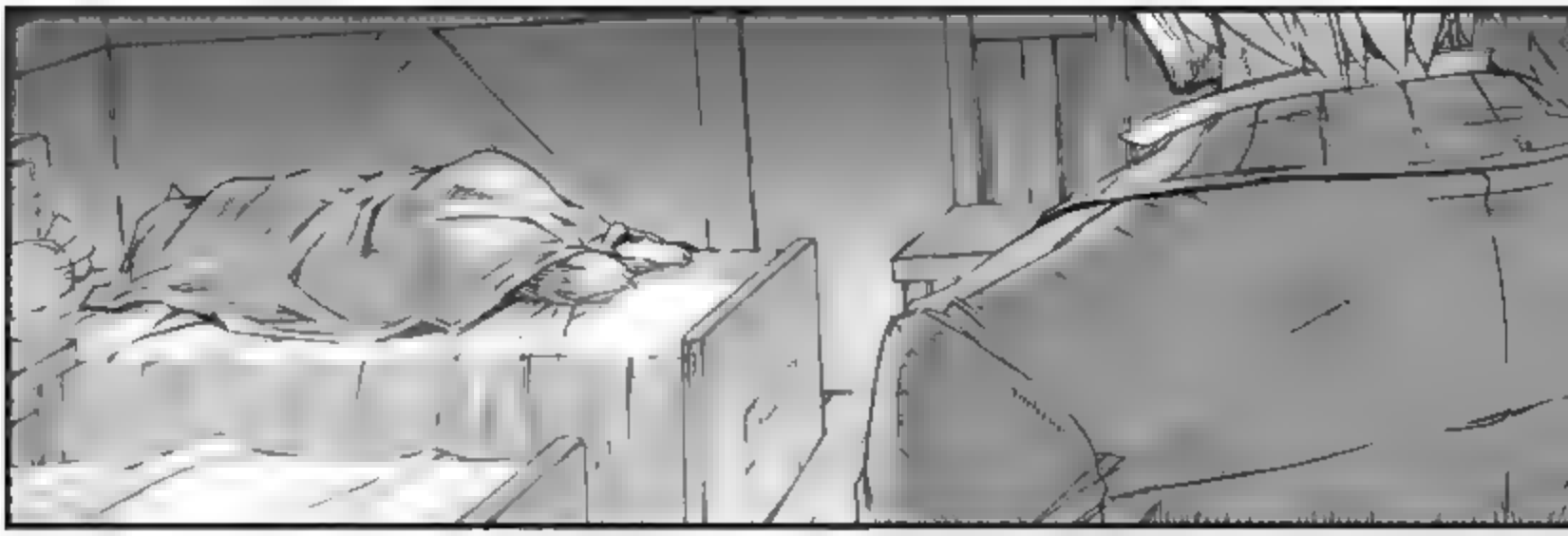
RUNNING FRANTICALLY AROUND RUVINHEIGEN, RIGHT UP TO THE CITYWIDE CURFEW...

...ONLY YIELDED A MEAGER THREE GOLD COINS.

HOLO.....

GACHA (CLICK)

BATAN (SHUT)



GISHI
GISHI
(CREAK)

GISHI
!

BUWA
(FLOOF)

THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I WAS ABLE TO GET ON MY OWN. THREE LUMIONE.

I STILL HAVE TO RAISE OVER FORTY MORE, BUT I'VE NO WAY TO DO IT.

I WAS... THINKING OF GOING TO SEE JAKOB.

ALL I CAN THINK OF TO DO IS TAKE THE MONEY TO A GAMBLING HOUSE AND HOPE FOR LUCK.

BUT IF I GIVE IT TO THE PERSON WHO REALLY SHOULD HAVE IT, I FEEL IT MAY YET INCREASE.

SO I ENTRUST IT TO YOU.

!?

BASHI
(SMACK)

KASHA
(CHOK)

GATAN
(CLACK)

BIRI
(TINGLE)

SORRY...

THE MONEY...

HOW DID YOU COLLECT IT?

YOU FOOL.

BORI

BORI (SCRITCH)

PU!! (FWIP)

YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF I'D RUN OFF WITH YOUR PRECIOUS MONEY?

THAT'S HALF THE REASON I COLLECTED IT.

IF MY FAILURE MEANS I CAN'T FULFILL MY END OF THE BARGAIN, THE LEAST I COULD DO IS LEAVE YOU SOME TRAVEL MONEY—

PORO

PORO (DRIP)

PORO

TRAVEL MONEY, YOU SAY?

OF ALL THE...

GATAN (CLATTER)

OF ALL THE ABSURD THINGS TO DO —!

WHY AREN'T YOU ANGRY?

I...

I...!

IT IS *MY* FAULT, IS IT NOT?

IF I WERE NOT HERE, YOU'D BE ABLE TO BORROW, WOULD YOU NOT?

I CAN'T BE ANGRY AT YOU FOR—

YOU CAME ALONG BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME.

BUT I WAS THE ONE AT FAULT.

GRRRR

YOU —!

BUWA (WHSSH)

FOOL —!

BUUN (FLING)

GA (GRAB)

.....

!?

DOSA (WHUD)

LOOK OUT!

FURA (SWAY)

FURA

YOU—!

YORO (WOBBLE)

YORO

URGH...

GAKO
CCLATTER

YOU'RE...

YOU'RE SO NAIVE...

HUH ...?

KOKU (NOD)

BUT... YOU ARE, ARE YOU NOT?

N-NO ONE WOULD LOAN YOU MONEY BECAUSE I WAS WITH YOU...

I HIT YOUR HAND AWAY!

I WAS MAD AT YOU— UNJUS-TIFIABLY MAD.

... YET ...

...YET STILL ...

I FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE I WAS SELFISH.

WHEN IT WENT AWRY, OF COURSE YOU WERE ANGRY.

...H-HOW COULD I BE ANGRY AT YOU WHEN YOU LOOKED AT ME LIKE THAT?

SO I WANTED TO BE ANGRY. I WANTED TO, BUT...

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HIT MY HAND AWAY LIKE THAT.

WANTING TO BE TRULY FURIOUS BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO— WAS THAT ONLY MORE FRUSTRATING ...?

I BECAME SO FOOLISHLY VEXED...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH I APOLOGIZED.

...I THOUGHT I'D DONE SOMETHING I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO TAKE BACK...

NO, WHAT I MEAN IS, WHEN I HIT YOUR HAND AWAY...

I'M SORRY—

AND IF IT DIDN'T COME ACROSS, WELL...

I JUST WANTED TO UNDO WHAT I'D DONE.

...I...

...I'M SORRY.

JUST ANSWER ME ONE THING.

...RIGHT, YOU.

ROSU (WHIP)

WHY...

...IS THAT?

WHY ARE YOU SO...

...SOFT-HEARTED?

WHY...

YEAH.

THAT'S IT.

KORO KOBBLE

JUST MY PERSON-ALITY...

...I GUESS.

BAKI (CRACK)

NN...

GUI (GRAB)

YOUR PERSON-ALITY?

YOUR PERSON-ALITY!?

GATA (CLATTER)

GA (TUG)

!?

THE TRUTH IS—!!

S-SORRY —!

NIKO (GRIN)

...AND TIMES WHEN IF YOU LIE TO ME, IT MAKES ME WANT TO GIVE YOUR FACE A SOUND BEATING.

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WANT YOU TO TELL ME SOMETHING EVEN IF IT'S A LIE—

HEAR THIS, YOU.

THE L-LATTER.

WHICH TIME DO YOU THINK WE NOW FACE?

OH, YOU'RE A RARE DUNCE INDEED!

GOTO

GOTO (TUNK)

WHEN

YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BENEATH YOU TO TRY TO USE THE SITUATION TO SOUND GALLANT.

I CAN SEE QUITE CLEARLY WHAT YOU ARE THINKING!

...WHO WOULD NOT HAVE MANAGED TO SAY, "I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU," OR "YOU'RE PRECIOUS TO ME," OR ANY OTHER LINE TO GET A FEMALE TO FALL FOR HIM?

HOW MANY MALES ARE THERE IN THE WORLD, DO YOU THINK...

ONE CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING ONE WANTS.

HAA (SIGH)

BUT I SUPPOSE 'TIS THAT SAME QUALITY THAT LETS ME TRAVEL WITH YOU SO EASILY.

BUT I SIMPLY CANNOT BELIEVE IT! I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE SUCH A SOFT TOUCH!

POFU (FLUMP)

STILL, I DID WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.

GYU (GRAB)

!

SO COME NOW, TRY AGAIN.

BOFU (WHUMP)

BECAUSE YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

!

BWAH HA HA HA HA!

HON-ESTLY...

...WHAT ARE WE DOING!?

YOU MADE ME DO IT!

GISHI (CREAK)

PFF!

PURU (TREMBLE)

PURU

HEE-HEE!

OH, AYE.

BUT 'TWAS A GOOD REHEARSAL FOR YOU, WAS IT NOT?

TEE HEE HEE!

G.SH

...NEXT TIME, JUST MAKE ME ANGRY, YES?

STILL, I MUST SAY...

'TIS NICE YOU WERE SO THOUGHT-FUL...

...BUT SOMETIMES IT IS QUICKER TO HAVE A NICE LOUD ROW AND SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS THAT WAY.

WHEN DID YOU...?

LOOKING AT YOUR FACE I CAN IMAGINE HOW YOU GOT THE MONEY TOGETHER— HOW MUCH?

GOSO

GOSO (DIG)

RIGHT, THEN—

GUSU (SNIFFLE)

.....

HEY —!

THREE LUMIONE AND TWO-SEVENTHS.

WHA—!?

WHAT IS IT?

NIKA (GRIN)

I HAVE A CUNNING PLAN.

YOU WERE RIGHT TO COUNT ON MY WIT.

GOSHI (RUB)

GOSHI

GYUMU (SHOVE)

DON'T LOOK *TOO* FORWARD TO IT, OR ELSE I'LL WORRY ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO PULL IT OFF.

MMM...

SPICE&WOLF

9

SH (SHF)

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA

HOW MIGHT WE HELP YOU—?

W-WELCOME TO THE REMELIO COMPANY...

HELLO...

I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS A WAY TO SETTLE MY DEBT WITH THIS COMPANY...

...AND POSSIBLY FOR THIS COMPANY TO SETTLE ITS OWN DEBTS, AS WELL.

THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MR. HANS REMELIO ABOUT, IF I MIGHT.

GOLD SMUGGLING!?

PREPOS-TEROUS...!

I UNDER-STAND YOUR DEBT IS A DIFFICULT ONE TO REPAY, BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU MAKING SUCH RIDICULOUS CHATTER.

THE PLAN HOLO HAD PROPOSED WAS SIMPLICITY ITSELF.

GATA (CLACK)

I'M SURE THERE ARE THOSE WHO'VE TRIED IT AND WERE CAUGHT.

BUT WHAT IF YOU COULD ENTRUST THE JOB TO SOMEONE ESPECIALLY TALENTED AT SMUGGLING?

THERE WERE, HOWEVER, TWO BARRIERS TO OVER-COME.

ONE, FINDING A SKILLED INDIVIDUAL TO CARRY THE GOLD.

AND TWO, FINDING AN INVESTOR TO BUY UP THE GOLD TO CARRY.

LISTEN, YOU.

!

WHA
—!?
GIRI
(GRIT)

ANOTHER PERSON LEFT YOUR COMPANY JUST NOW...

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE LUXURY OF WAVERING?

.....

E-ER...

CAN YOU KEEP DILLY-DALLYING LIKE THIS?

I'VE EXCELLENT HEARING, YOU KNOW.

STOP, PLEASE!

SHALL I TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR WORKERS AND THEIR PLANS BEING HATCHED DOWNSTAIRS RIGHT NOW? THEIR PLANS TO ESCAPE WHILE THEY CAN?

ラ ラ
URRRGH...
ラ・・・・

・・・・・・

MR.
REMELIO.

I PROPOSE THAT YOU TAKE THESE THREE LUMIONE— EVERYTHING I HAVE...

...AS A DEPOSIT AND INVEST IN GOLD.

WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO WILL MAKE THE SMUGGLING POSSIBLE.

IF THIS PERSON IS PAID WELL ENOUGH, TRUSTWOR-THINESS IS ASSURED.

AND GIVEN YOUR COMPANY, I'M SURE YOU HAVE A MEANS TO MOVE THE SMUGGLED GOLD.

WHAT SAY YOU?

IF YOU'LL POSTPONE MY LOAN...

...AND GIVE ME A FAIR PORTION...

...I WANT TO CONDUCT THIS OPERATION WITH NO UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS PLACED ON YOU.

.....
.....

MR. REMELIO.

...ALL RIGHT.

GATA (CLATTER)

LET'S DO IT.

MAY GOD FORGIVE US.

KAAAN

KAAAN (DONNNG)

GARA (RATTLE)

GARA

YOU REALLY ARE JUST TOO SOFT-HEARTED BY HALF.

HAA (SIGH)

DON (PAT)

DON

GETTING A YOUNG GIRL WRAPPED UP IN A LIFE-OR-DEATH PLOT— OF COURSE IT'S GOING TO GIVE ME PAUSE.

...IT'S THANKS TO THAT SOFT-HEARTEDNESS THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL SO EASILY.

I SUPPOSE I'LL—

STILL, THOUGH ...

KARAN (DONNING)

KARAN

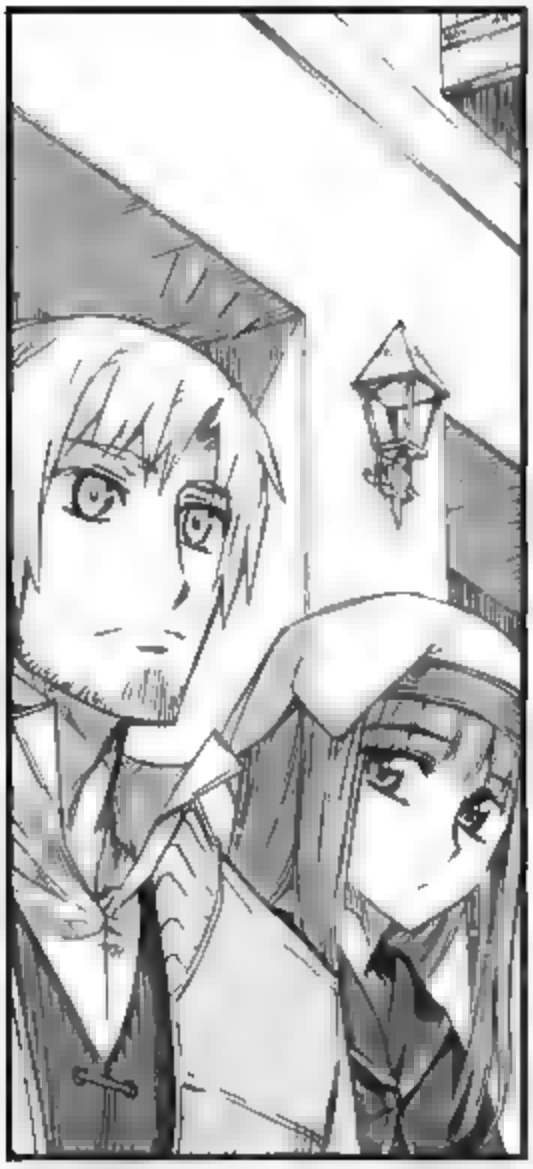
KARAN

KARAN

MERCHANTS ARE LIKE SABERS— THEY'RE NO GOOD IF THEY'RE NOT STRAIGHT.

THEY BREAK OTHER-WISE.

!



GAYA
GAYA
(CHATTER)

GOOD DAY.
HUH?

OH!
LAW—
MR. LAWRENCE!

AND...

...MISS HOLO?

BA (FLING)

WHAT A HAPPY COINCIDENCE! IT IS CLEAR THAT US MEETING IN FRONT OF A CHURCH LIKE THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD!

I WON'T BE FOOLED, MR. LAWRENCE!

HEE!

HEE!

HERE'S TO OUR REUNION!

GAKO (CLICK)

AS YOU MAY HAVE GUESSED, I COME WITH AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT.

PAA (SPARKLE)

WAI

WAI (CHATTER)

SO, NORAH, DID YOU SAY YOU WERE ABLE TO GO AS FAR AS LAMTRA?

Y-YES, I CAN GO THAT FAR.

CHIRA (PEEK)

AS LONG AS IT'S NOT TOO LARGE.

EVEN BRINGING A FLOCK?

DOKI (BADUM)

DOKI

KOKU (GULP)

VERY WELL, THEN.

COMPENSATION WILL BE TWENTY LUMIONE.

NOT IN A CHEAP BANKNOTE, OF COURSE— IT WILL BE HARD COIN.

FAILURE EARNS US NOTHING.

HOWEVER, THERE IS RISK, AND THE COMPENSATION IS ONLY IF WE SUCCEED.

SFX: CHAPO (PLIP)

THE JOB WILL BE MOVING SHEEP— THEN MOVING THEM BACK AGAIN...

SU

SU (SHF)

...AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE.

!?

!?

!?

GURA (WOBBLE)

ER...

THAT WILL BE ALL WE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES AS A SHEPHERD.

PROPOR-TIONAL TO THE PROFIT, YOU SEE.

ZUI (ZWIP)

HOWEVER, THE WORK ITSELF INVOLVES SIGNIFICANT DANGER.

I RECALL YOU SAID YOU DREAMED OF BECOMING A DRESSMAKER, CORRECT?

NEVER-THELESS, THE PAY IS TWENTY LUMIONE.

YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAILY EXPENSES, WORKING WITHOUT WORRY.

WITH THAT MUCH, YOU COULD EASILY BUY YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

EVEN THE HIGHEST GUILD DUES ARE BUT A SINGLE LUMIONE.

YOU WOULD BE THE MISTRESS OF NORAH DRESS-MAKERS.

BIKU (TWITCH)

OH, THAT'S RIGHT—

.....

HFFF!

N-NO, I WAS THINKING A DIFFERENT TOWN.

KAKL (FLINCH)

HAD YOU PLANNED TO JOIN THE TAILORS GUILD IN THIS CITY, NORAH?

IT CAN BE QUITE HARD TO LIVE IN AN UNFAMILIAR CITY WITH NO FRIENDS, I FIND.

I SEE! DO YOU NOT LIKE THE SPRAWLING SIZE OF THIS CITY COMPARED WITH OTHERS?

...I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THIS CITY AND ITS CHURCHES, WON'T YOU?

WELL...

I MEAN, NOT AT ALL... WELL, BUT...

N-NO—

...THE MORE THEY'LL SUSPECT YOU OF WITCH-CRAFT.

THE HARDER YOU WORK FOR THEM, THE BETTER YOU PROTECT THE SHEEP THEY'VE ENTRUSTED TO YOU...

AM I WRONG?

...BECAUSE THE ALTER-NATIVES ARE ALREADY TAKEN BY THOSE SELFSAME SHEPHERDS, THEY'LL SAY.

...YOU'LL HAVE TO VENTURE WHERE OTHER SHEPHERDS WOULD NEVER GO...

AND AS THEY TRY TO EXPOSE YOU...

GYU (CLENCH)

AND EVERY DAY YOU'RE NOT, THEY'LL SUSPECT YOU OF BEING A PAGAN.

THE PRIESTS WILL KEEP PUSHING YOU FARTHER AWAY UNTIL YOU'RE ATTACKED BY WOLVES OR MAYBE MERCENARIES.

LET ME SAY IT PLAINLY.

THE CHURCH HERE IS LOWER THAN PIGS.

KYORO

KYORO (GLANCE)

ZUI (LOOM)

BUT WE HAVE A PLAN.

GO (TINK)

WE'LL GIVE THE CHURCH SOME TROUBLE, MAKE SOME MONEY, AND HEAD TO A DIFFERENT TOWN.

THAT KIND OF PLAN.

WE WILL SMUGGLE GOLD.

...HE'S A DEVIL...

DOKI (BADUM)

HE...

DOKI

DOKI

BUT... WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY DO?

EVERY ROAD THAT ENTERS RUVINHEIGEN HAS CHECK-POINTS AND TWO STAGES OF EXAMINATION.

AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, GOLD COMING INTO THE CITY IS HEAVILY REGULATED.

WE PLAN TO GET GOLD PAST THE CHECKPOINTS BY HIDING IT IN THE SHEEP'S STOMACHS.

IF YOU HIDE SOMETHING IN YOUR SLEEVES OR AMONG YOUR LUGGAGE, THEY'LL FIND IT ON THE SPOT.

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO BRING IN A LOT OF SOMETHING, IT'S EVEN HARDER.

I SEE.

AND THIS IS WHAT MAKES YOU PERFECT FOR THE JOB.

GOLD PRICES ARE ABSURDLY HIGH IN ANY CITY AFFECTED BY RUVINHEIGEN POLICY.

THAT MAKES THE PAGAN TOWN OF LAMTRA THE MOST CONVENIENT PLACE FROM WHICH TO START.

...AND THAT ROUTE IS THE QUICKEST PATH FROM LAMTRA, TO BOOT.

NO ONE WILL FIND IT SUSPICIOUS THAT YOU'RE BRINGING YOUR SHEEP THROUGH A LOW-TRAFFIC ROUTE...

コホン

AHEM!

...AND ONCE THE JOB IS DONE, WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE CITY TO BE SAFE.

IT'S TRUE THAT IF WE'RE CAUGHT, THE PUNISHMENTS WILL BE HEAVY...

ALSO, DEPENDING ON THE CIR-CUMSTANCES, WE MAY HAVE TO ASK YOU TO BUTCHER THE SHEEP.

AND IT IS TWENTY LUMIONE, AFTER ALL.

...SURELY GOD WOULD OVERLOOK THIS INFRACTION.

BUT GIVEN THE TREATMENT YOU'VE RECEIVED IN THIS CITY THUS FAR...

PLEASE, LET ME DO IT.

RIGHT, NOW FOR THE DETAILS.

I SHALL COUNT ON YOU, THEN.

...AND I ON YOU.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

SPICE&WOLF

GOOD MORNING. YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.

SEVEN HEAD OF SHEEP, THEN?

GOOD MORN-ING!

FOR-TUNATELY THEY'RE ALL HEALTHY AND STRONG.

THAT'S LUCKY FOR US.

AND THIS IS MY COMPANION, HOLO.

LAWRENCE.

MY NAME IS MARTEN LIEBERT, OF THE REMELIO COMPANY.

KAKO (CLOP)

カコ

UM, I'M N-NORAH.

NORAH ARENDT.

THEY SENT A YOUNG MAN.

LET US GO, THEN.

BUSINESS IS LIKE FRESH FISH IN THE KITCHEN.

THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE ON THIS ROAD.

UM, EXCUSE ME, EVERY-ONE—

NORAH HAS TRAVELED THIS ROAD MANY TIMES.

STILL —!

WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO PASTURE SHEEP.

BUT—

LET US MAKE CAMP HERE FOR THE NIGHT.

THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF DAYLIGHT LEFT.

MR. LIEBERT, YOU SEEM UNUSED TO TRAVEL. GOOD PREPARATION IS VERY IMPORTANT.

AND SHEPHERDS SLEEP BEFORE SUNDOWN SO THEY'RE ABLE TO STAY UP DURING THE NIGHT...

PON (PAT)

ポーン

...SO THAT BOTH THE SHEEP AND WE CAN SLEEP SAFELY.

ZA (CRUNCH)

I AM SORRY. THE PRESSURE IS GETTING TO ME, I THINK.

...UNDERSTOOD.

WELL, UNLIKE ME, YOU'RE CARRYING AN ENTIRE COMPANY ON YOUR BACK. IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

GOD'S PROTECTION BE WITH US...

IF WE ENCOUNTER WOLVES, DO NOT PANIC. WE'LL ARRIVE AT THE TOWN SAFELY.

GOOO (WHOOO)

WE'LL REACH THE FOREST SOON.

PUI (PWIP)

.....

GOKURI (GULP)

HAA (SIGH)
NO GOOD. WE'RE ALREADY SURROUN-DED.

DO YOU THINK WOLVES WILL BE A PROBLEM?
HM?

HEY.

I CAN GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY. THE OTHERS, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE UNLESS EVERYONE'S OKAY.

IF THERE ARE WOLVES, THEY'VE LONG SINCE NOTICED US AND STARTED SHARPENING THEIR FANGS.

I TRULY DO NOT KNOW. THE FOREST IS DOWNWIND, YOU SEE.

ZA (WSH)

ZOKU (SHIVER)

XIII

BAAAH!

WAH!

BA (LUNGE)

HMPH!

BEING HALF-CLEVER ONLY INVITES DEATH.

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

CLEVER DOG.

THAT DOG, IT KNOWS WHAT I AM.

EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET IT'S BEEN LOOKING AT ME IN THE MOST IRRITATING WAY.

NN...

HIDING MY EARS AND TAIL WILL FOOL HUMANS BUT NOT A DOG.

IT DOES?

"JUST YOU TRY TOUCHING THE SHEEP. I'LL RIP YOUR THROAT OUT."

HA-HA-HA, SURELY NOT.

THEY SAY THIS—

...IS THAT DOG'S EYES.

BUT, HERE, WHAT REALLY IRRITATES ME...

NOTHING MAKES ME SO ANGRY AS A DOG THAT DOESN'T KNOW ITS PLACE.

PLIP...! (FWIP)

AND ANYWAY, I AM HOLO THE WISEWOLF. I WON'T FALL FOR SOME MERE DOG'S PROVOCATION.

KI (GLARE)

INDEED.

THAT DOG IS NO MATCH FOR YOU.

HMPH!

WELL...

...I SEE YOU UNDER-STAND THE WAY OF IT, THEN.

YOU'RE STRONGER, SMARTER...

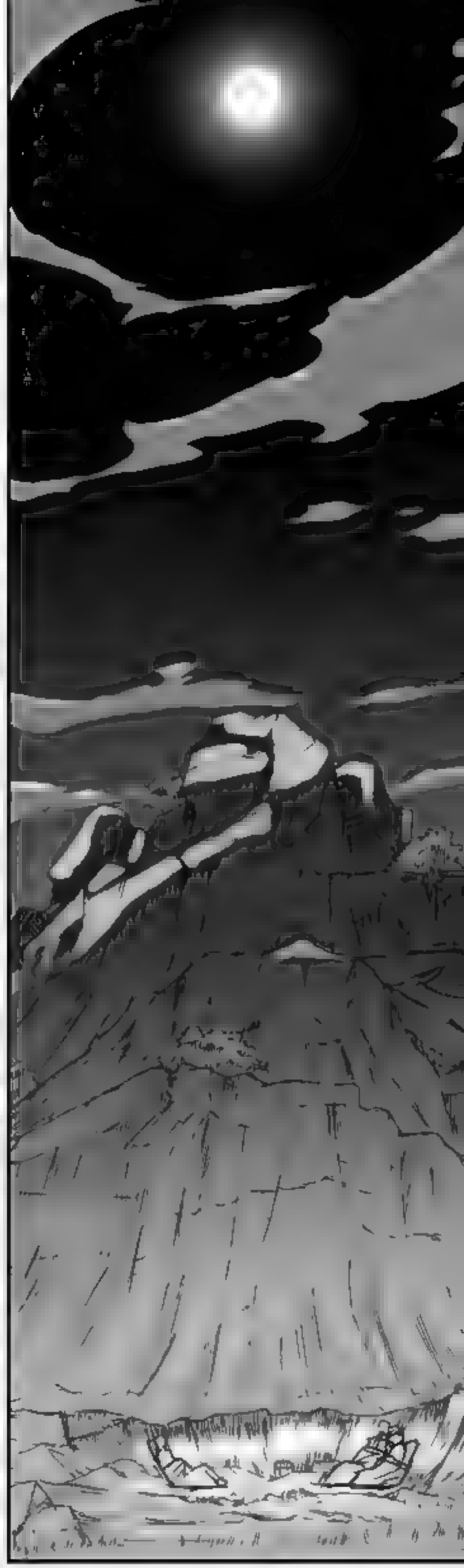
...AND YOUR TAIL FUR IS FINER.

PIKU

PIKU (TWITCH)

UGH..

Z
Z
STILL NIGHT... I MUST BE NERVOUS MYSELF...



TEE!

HEE!

?

!

Kuuuu

Kuuuu

EVEN A WISEWOLF LETS HER GUARD DOWN.

Kuuuu (SNORE)

HEE!

HEE!

Zzz
Zz
KO
(TNK)
KUUUU
NADE
NADE
(PET)
—Suu—
(ZZZ)
WHY,
YOU
...!
BACK
AGAIN
...
BA
(RISE)

!

SAAA WHSSSH

BAAAH!

BAAAH!

KARAN TINKLE

KARAN

PA (JUMP)

MR. LAWRENCE, GET BACK!

!?

GU (GRAB)

WAKE UP, PLEASE! GO TO ENEK!

PASH! (SMACK)

!?

GASHA (WHLISH)

?

?

"SHE'S QUICK

ENEK!

GOOOO (FLAARE)

BA (FLING)

GRRRR!

GO!
(STOMP)

GO

GO

PACHI
(CRACKLE)
PACHI
PACH

?

SU (SHF)

OH, GET IT

GYUMU (TUG)

HA HA...

WHAT, THERE'S NOTHING TH—

AWOOOOOOOOOO!

PUOOOOOOOO

...DID WE CHASE THEM OFF?

I'M NOT SURE... AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY SEEM TO HAVE BACKED AWAY.

110 F.

PACH! (CRACKLE)

GRR!

SO IS IT SAFE, OR IS THERE YET DANGER?

I HARDLY EVER HEAR THEM HOWL, AND THEY DO NOT SEEM TO ATTACK—

THE WOLVES IN THIS AREA ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

GOKU (GULP)

ゴ!!ク・・・

THEY JUST WATCH...

.....

GKUH?

'TIS A BIT STRANGE THEY DON'T EVEN HOWL.

IT COULD BE AUGHT BESIDES WOLVES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SPIRIT OF A TRAVELER WHO DIED HERE...

!

KYU (TUG)

LOOK, YOU..

20 (CHILL)

I HAVE A BAD FEELING.

I WAS HALF-SERIOUS.

DON'T YOU TRY TO SCARE ME.

SPICE&WOLF

IN THE END, THEY REACHED LAMTRA BY MIDDAY THE NEXT DAY WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

LIEBERT WOULD HARDLY FAIL TO PURCHASE THE GOLD, BUT THE ACTUAL SMUGGLING COULD EASILY GO AWRY.

KARAN (TINKLE)

INDEED.

THAT SHE COULD BE BURNED AT THE STAKE, HER ASHES SCATTERED AT THE CROSS-ROADS?

DID I PROPERLY EXPLAIN THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE?

MISS... HOLO, I MEAN...

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT—

MISS HOLO, DO... DO YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT WOLVES?

UM, I MEAN... LAST NIGHT, I JUST...

...YOU NOTICED THE WOLVES SO QUICKLY, SO I...

MOJ (FIDGET)

MOJ

OH, I SEE...

WHAT? I SIMPLY NOTICED THEM, 'TWAS ALL.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

I MEAN, THE MEN ARE GENERALLY USELESS, AFTER ALL.

EH!?

AH!

I-I DON'T —!

ZUI (LOOM)

DON'T YOU THINK?

?

...KNOWS A LOT ABOUT WOLVES!

IN THE FIRST PLACE, 'TIS STRANGE TO ASK IF SOMEONE LIKE ME, TRAVELING ALONE WITH A MAN...

...TEMPTED BY THIS HELPLESS, ADORABLE RABBIT.

BECAUSE! COME NIGHT-TIME, A WOLF WILL ALWAYS APPEAR...

KAAA (BLUUUSH)

SURELY YOU'LL AGREE THAT A RABBIT WHO IS DEVOURED BY A WOLF EVERY NIGHT COULD NOT FAIL TO KNOW SOME-THING ABOUT WOLVES!

FURI (FWISH)

FURI

AH, APOLOGIES, 'TWAS BUT A JEST.

TEE HEE HEE!

IN TRUTH, IT'S MY COMPANION THAT'S MORE LIKE A RABBIT.

コク KOKU (NOD)

はぁ～ HAAAA (SIGH)

STILL, 'TWAS A LOVELY REACTION YOU HAD...

BUT, IN ANY CASE, I JUST HAPPENED TO NOTICE THE WOLVES LAST NIGHT.

ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU WERE A SHEPHERD, MISS HOLO.

WELL, THERE IS THAT TOO.

OH, BECAUSE I WAS QUICK TO NOTICE THE WOLVES?

SAAAA (WHOOOSH)

BAAAH!

AHEM!

MM, IS THAT SO?

ACTUALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE ENEK SEEMS TO BE VERY AWARE OF YOU.

'TIS HARD TO SAY IN FRONT OF A PET DOG, BUT...

...I DARE-SAY HE'S SMITTEN WITH ME.

WHA-WHAT?

ER, YOU MEAN, ENEK IS?

MY, IT'S NOTHING TO BE SAD ABOUT. ANY MALE WILL GET OVER-CONFIDENT IF SPOILED.

I'M SURE HE'S QUITE IMPORTANT TO YOU...

...BUT THAT ONLY MAKES HIM FEEL SECURE THAT HE'S GAINED YOUR AFFECTION.

THERE'S NO MISTAKE— HE'LL GO LOOKING FOR OTHERS TO FROLIC WITH.

NO MATTER HOW DELICIOUS THE BREAD, SOMETIMES YOU WANT SOUP.

PUT ANOTHER WAY, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE COLD.

'TIS A GOOD LEASH.

PA (JUMP)

HA

HA (PANT)

SUKU (SHUP)

ENEK!

IF HE EVER HAS AN AFFAIR, I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

KUH KUH KUH!

GOOD.

WOOF!

BUT...

HERE, YOU—

GYU (SQUEEZE)

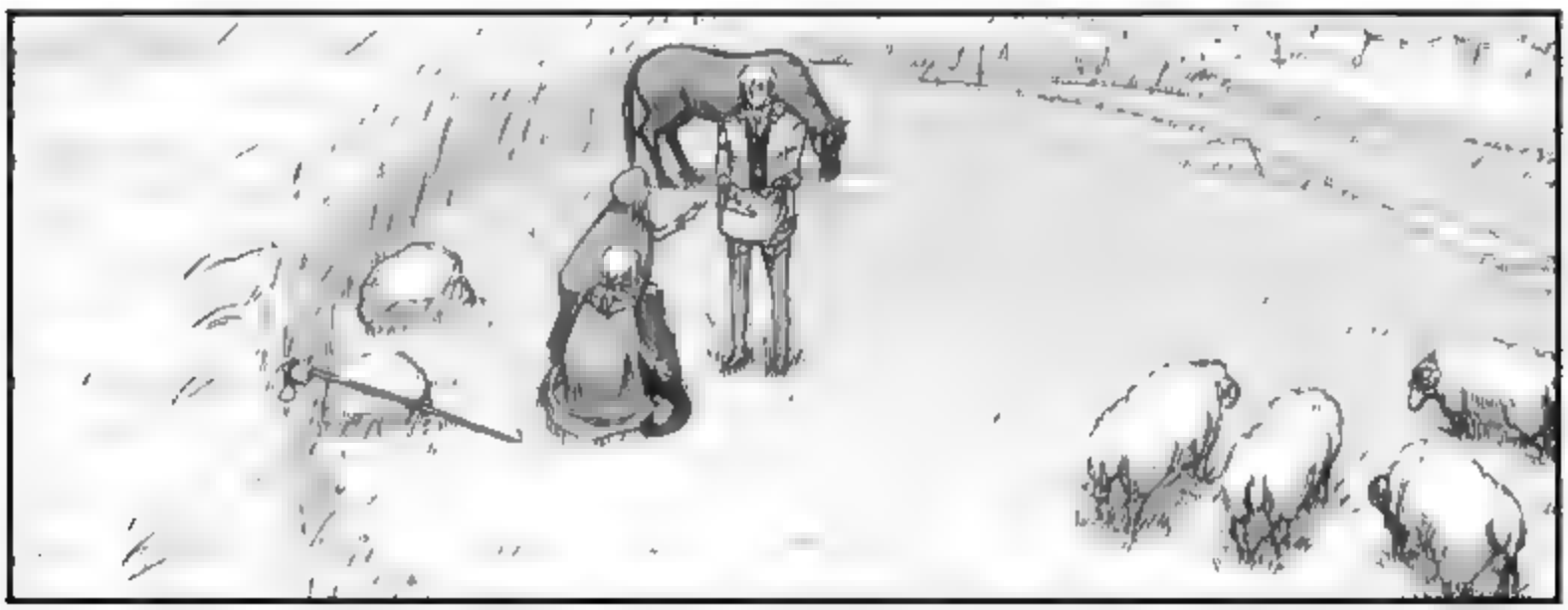
...I THINK I'D LIKE TO INDULGE HIM AS LONG AS I CAN, THOUGH.

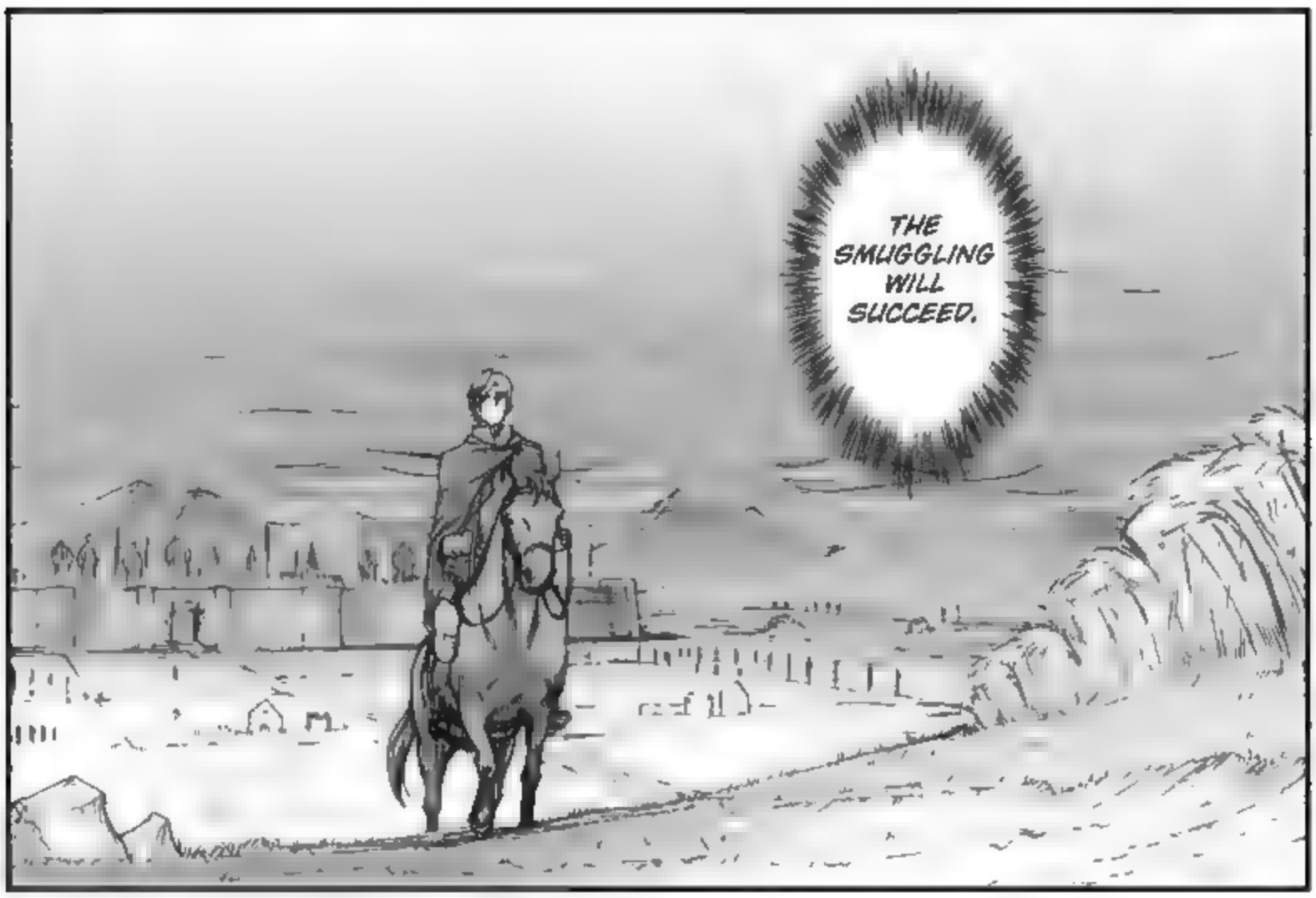
BECAUSE... WHETHER THIS JOB GOES WELL OR FAILS...

CHIRA (GLANCE)

!

...I'LL BE GIVING UP MY WORK AS A SHEPHERD.




THE SMUGGLING WILL SUCCEED.

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE IT SAFELY BACK WITH THIS AND FEED IT TO THE SHEEP AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME.

INDEED IT IS.

ZUSHI (SHNK)

SIX HUNDRED LUMIONE-WORTH OF PURE GOLD.

GACHA (CLINK)

WE ARE.

...THE SHEEP WILL BE RECEIVED AS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. ARE WE AGREED?

THEN ONCE WE'VE GOTTEN THEM THROUGH THE GATES...

THEN LET US GO. A GOLDEN TOMORROW AWAITS US.

MY BLANKET...

SO COLD...

KUUUUU (SNOOORE)

KUUUUU

HFF!

THE CAMPFIRE..

ZZZ

PAKI (CRACK)

PAKI

MORNING MIST, HUH...

TSUWA (FWUMP)

!

LOOKS LIKE RAIN TODAY...

'TIS WARMER OVER HERE.

WISH WE COULD TAKE FAST HORSES AND MAKE IT TO TOWN BEFORE THE RAIN.

I WANT TO RETURN TO THE INN AS SOON AS WE CAN.

THOUGH ...

GORO (RUMBLE)

GORO

WHAT SAY YOU TO SOME NICE HOT SOUP AND BREAD TOASTED ON THE INN'S HEARTH?

I'VE NO COMPLAINTS. ALSO...

GUI (SHUP)

...YOUR, THOROUGH TAIL GROOM-ING, RIGHT?

A RAIN IS COMING, THOUGH I HAVEN'T WISHED IT SO.

BACHA

BACHA

BACHA (SPLISH)

ENEK!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

ZA (DASH)

KARAN (TINKLE)

BAAAH!

BAAAH!

AROOOOOOO!

THEY'RE TRYING TO CAREFULLY ENCIRCLE US AT THE SAME TIME THEY SURROUND THE PREY, YOU SEE.

IF WE LET THE PACK SURROUND US, WE'LL BE DONE FOR.

JAA (SPLASH)

THAT'S WHY THE SHEPHERD IS TRYING...

PA (LEAP)

...TO PUT US IN A POSITION TO STRIKE AT EVEN ONE WOLF.

GOOOOO (RUMMMBLE)

SA: (SWOOSH)

GAKA
GAKA
WHAT TO DO, INDEED.
GAKA (THOK)
WHAT TO DO, EH?
WHAT?
ABOUT MY EXPLANATION BEFORE— I TAKE IT BACK.
LISTEN ...

ENEK!

!?

BISHI (YANK)

FALL BACK.

GAA (CHOK)

DO (THUD)

.....

HA

HA (PANT)

HA

WOOF!

?

SAAAAA
(SSSSHHHHHH)

HEY!

ARE YOU WELL, SHEPHERD?

ENEK.

LET'S NOT DALLY IN THIS FOREST.

V-VERY WELL.

?

ER...

THE HUMANS, AS WELL.

WE'RE SAFE...

TSUWA (TING)

YOU MEAN, THOSE WOLVES ...?

YOUNGSTERS THESE DAYS, I SUPPOSE I COULD SAY.

GORO (RUMBLE)

GORO

GORO

HFF!

HFF!

A HOWL...

To be continued in Volume 6...

Incredibly, the show's sold out despite the only information available about the group being its lineup!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

And now, genius producer Lawrence's new band's inaugural concert is about to begin!

Bonus Track

K-ON!

HOW DID YOU CONVINCE THEM TO JOIN?

YOU COULD CALL THIS THE PINNACLE OF MY ENTIRE CAREER.

WHAT'S THE BAND'S NAME?

MR. LAWRENCE! THE CONCERT IS FINALLY HERE!

WAAAAH!

And now, allow me to introduce you...

MARRY ME!

結

MISS HOLO!

THE SUPER "S"ISTERS !!!

...to these five beautiful, brilliant artists!!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WERE YOU THE ONE THAT DECIDED ON THAT NAME? YOU'LL EXCUSE ME FOR FINDING IT A BIT PLAIN...

WAAAAH!

WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE FOR IT?

WAAAAH!

WAIT, I MEAN PERSONALITY!

KURU

CERTAINLY— PERVERSION!

On lead guitar, the virtuosic Holo!

On bass! The alchemist of sound, Dian! The sister of equivalent exchange!

Her sweetness lures you in, but beware her keen fangs— she'll devour your heart! She's the sister of lyricism!

Eve Bolan! The sister waiting for riches! Is she a noblewoman? A tomboy? Who cares?

SFX: ZUDADADADAN (BACHACHACHOOM)

PIROOON (PLINK)

PIROOON (PLINK)

WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?

PIROOON

And on keys, watching the melody as perfectly as she watches her flock, Norah!

On rhythm guitar, Elsa! Keeper of the underground library and the most educated sister!

GYUU (ZHA)

GYU

GYU

GYUUUU (ZHUUUUM)

YOU CAN TALK!?

WHA... ENEK!?

BUT YOU STEPPED ON ME EARLIER, DIDN'CHA? ARE YOU THE ANTI-ANIMAL SISTER OR SOMETHIN'?

...tonight's performance is entirely made up of new songs from Holo, isn't that right?

NOD

ACCIDENTALLY

NORAH!

YEAH!

NOD

NORAH!

YEAH! NORAH! YEAH!

GU CPRESS

GU

GU

YOU STEPPED ON ME, DIDN'CHA!?

I-I'M SORRY, ENEK! I'M SORRY!

ホロ！ホロ！ナニ変ンネ！

HOLO! HOLO! NEVER CHANGE!

COME, NOW! TONIGHT YOU'LL ALL GET EARFULS OF MY SONG!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

WAAAAH!

That's right! The lyrics resonate with people because they come straight from Holo's pure desires.

WAAAAH!

KYAAAH!

ONE!

TWO!

NAAAAH!

NAAAAH!

ONE!

TWO!

THREE!!

FOUR!!

NAAAAH!

NOW, THE FIRST SONG!

"MEAT FOR DINNER!"

OH GOD...

SU (SHP)

SU

UGH, CARNI-VORES...

After all, she lives as she pleases!

HEADLINE: LAWRENCE QUESTIONED

The End.

SPECIAL THANKS: MR. ITTOUHEI OKAMOTO, MR. TOI TENTSU, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. YUU

Congratulations on Volume 5 going on sale, Koume-san! Sometimes as I read your manga, it reminds me of props and settings I'd forgotten about. As an author and as a reader, I hope we get five or ten more volumes to come!

支倉凍砂

Isuna Hasekura

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume 5!

The constant quality of your work is always amazing! I'm still cheering for you!

Jyuu Ayakura

SPICE & WOLF 5

Isuna Hasekura
Keito Koume
Character design:
Jyuu Ayakura

Translation: Paul Starr

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